Canning, with whom Murray was in communication, and to whom apparently he presented, or endeavoured to present, Disraeli.[1] At all events, Murray resolved to consult Sir Walter, who had given him valuable aid in the establishment of the *Quarterly* ; and as the matter was too delicate to be settled by correspondence, Disraeli was despatched to the North to try the effect of his persuasive eloquence in the conduct of the negotiations. He was armed with two letters of introduction to Lock-hart — one from Murray, in which he is described as ' my most particular and confidential young friend,' and Lockhart is requested to receive his communications 'as if they were given to you in person by myself; the other from a Mr. Wright, a barrister, who, by Murray's wish, 'suggests the place of superintendent of the new paper,' and adds his belief that Canning wishes Lockhart to accept.[2] Disraeli's own letters to Murray give a graphic account of the mission, and incidentally show that the young plenipotentiary neither underrated its importance nor failed to take himself as seriously as the occasion required.

The first letter, written apparently on September 17,[3] is from Edinburgh, where he had arrived the night before, having 'slept at Stamford, York, and Newcastle, and by so doing felt quite fresh at the end of my journey. I never preconceived a place better than Edinburgh. It is exactly what I fancied it, and certainly is the most beautiful town in the world.' He has already discovered that Lockhart is at Chiefswood, his country cottage near Abbotsford, and has despatched Wright's letter thither; and he has visited a printing and bookbinding

est abl ish me nt, wh ere his ey es are op en for su gg est ion s as be co me s a pra cti cal ma n of bu sin ess . ' I int en d to ex am ine the wh ole mi nut ely bef ore I lea ve, as it

may be useful. I never thought of binding. Suppose you were to sew, &c., your own publications.'

i Smiles, II., p. 189. 2 Lang, pp. 364, 367.

[8] Dr. Smiles's dates are obviously inaccurate.

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